

**THE FIRST FISNA WORKSHOP, 28th TO 31st AUGUST 2005,
SOKOINE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MOROGORO,
TANZANIA- REPORT FROM THE FISNA SECRETARIAT**

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1.0 Background

The current global interest in alien invasive species in the environment owes a great deal to the inclusion of the subject in the Convention of Biological Diversity (1992) where, in Article 8(h), Parties to the Convention agree to “as far as possible and as appropriate: Prevent the introduction of, eradicate or control those species which threaten species, habitats or ecosystems”. At the time the Convention was ratified, most governments had insufficient information on this problem to make Article 8(h) a priority in their biodiversity planning. Subsequent international meetings however, have raised awareness about invasive species, particularly the 1996 Norway-UN Conference on Alien Species at which representatives from 80 countries met with specialists in invasive species problems and began to work out the international scale and nature of the problem. One of the most lasting conclusions of this conference was the view that alien invasive species are second only to habitat destruction as a threat to species loss and biodiversity.

The importance of alien forestry invasive species in Africa was emphasized in August 2004 at a IUFRO meeting in Kumasi, Ghana, where the formation of an active African network on forest invasive species was visualized and proposed. As a result, a meeting to launch the Forestry Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA) was conducted in Malawi in December 2004 where the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM) was nominated as the secretariat.

Between 28th and 31st August 2005, the first meeting of FISNA was organized at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture, the US Forest Service and FAO.

2.0 Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting was held with three main objectives: i) to bring together members of the interim committee and discuss three dangerous invasive insect pest species of plantation forests recently recorded in Africa; the Giant conifer aphid (*Cinara pinivora*)

currently in Malawi and Kenya, the Sirex wood wasp (*Sirex noctilio*) currently in South Africa and the Bluegum chalcid (*Leptocybe invasa*) currently in Uganda and Kenya ii) to facilitate the exchange of information on existing forest invasive species in the countries that were represented at the workshop iii) to offer an opportunity for the participating African plant protection experts to discuss import and export regulations for live plants and international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) in general, but specifically ISPM # 2, 11 and 21 which have special relevance to Africa.

3.0 Highlight of Deliberations and Major Achievements

The meeting was conducted very successfully and participants freely discussed and exchanged information on forest invasive species in Africa. Up-to-date information on forest invasive species and their management was imparted on the participants by experts who have wide experience with the species. There were detailed presentations on *L. invasa*, *Sirex noctilio* and IPPC from experts. The IPPC presentation offered an opportunity to get the latest expert information from FAO on import and export regulations for live plants and on international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) which have a direct impact on the movement of plant materials within and out of Africa.

Participants compiled a list of invasive species of major concern in their respective countries (table 1).

During field tours, participants inspected various sites which were infested by different forest invasive species in Tanzania, including the newly discovered Blue Gum Chalcid (*L. invasa*). The Blue Gum chalcid is a particularly serious pest of Eucalyptus tree species that many countries in Africa should be on the look out for.

4.0 Agreements and Way Forward

a) Write Ups

Detailed write ups on each of the following major invasive species in Africa should be prepared and submitted for the FISNA website:

- i) *Leptocybe invasa*– Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania (Leader, Eston Mutitu)
- ii) *Prosopis* – Kenya, Ethiopia. Led by Alemayehu Refera
- iii) *Acacia mearnsii* (Black wattle) – South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya- led by Jolanda Roux

- iv) *Cinara pinivora* (Giant pine aphid) – Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia led by Clement Chilima

b) FISNA Membership

Membership of FISNA should consider social impact of pests, so that membership should not be limited to biologists (technical/scientific).

Each member of the executive committee should act as country coordinator whose activities should include advertising FISNA within his/her country and region in order to get more countries and individuals to “join” FISNA. It was also agreed that membership should be open to all, not just to the the interim executive committee that met at Morogoro. Participants resolved to develop strategies to get more countries involved as members and get representatives on the executive committee. Dr Paul Bosu will co-ordinate and talk to other West African countries.

c) IPPC

Each participant should talk to their country National Plant Protection Officers (NPPS) to get involved in quarantine issues and advise them on forestry plant protection matters. This should involve personal contacts.

FISNA should formulate a standard letter that can be used by each participant to approach the NPPO's and higher up.

CABI offered to assist with training in IPPC regulations/issues.

d) Taxonomy

FISNA should identify institutes/experts in the African region to who samples can be sent for identification, to cut down on high costs of identification abroad.

e) Invasive Species Monitoring and Training of Monitors

FISNA members should draft and share protocols for monitoring of specific invasive species. These should be placed on the FISNA website.

A IUFRO/FISNA forest invasive species monitoring training course should be proposed where some of the FISNA committee members can become trainers.

Universities, private companies and other institutions other than just government should be approached to assist with funding and implementation of invasive species monitoring activities.

There should be a model developed for monitoring which can then be adapted for specific cases/countries

f) Future Funding

AFORNET should be contacted for joint meetings and support on forest invasive species management activities. Realising that AFORNET only provides funding for research-related activities FISNA should approach management of AFORNET and find out if waiver can be made where small proportion of funds for forest research could be set aside for forest networking.

The FISNA Secretariat should actively seek funding for the next FISNA meeting. Each member should assist with this and find funds for FISNA meetings, such as by building these in project proposals.

g) Website management

FAO should be requested to assist with training of the secretariat on website management with specific reference to the FISNA website.

FISNA members should continuously populate the website with information

The now better-informed participants should form a core team fundamental to FISNA, that will further disseminate the forest invasive species information and knowledge regularly using the network in the different countries in Africa.

5.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of FISNA, the Secretariat would like to sincerely thank the USDA Forest Service for the financial support, without which the workshop would not have taken place. Special thanks to Dr Robert Mangold and Dr Iral Ragenovich. It is the sincere hope of FISNA that the collaboration that has been initiated through this workshop will grow from strength to strength and that USDA Forest Service will continue to provide support to FISNA in its endeavor to protect the forest environment in Africa from alien invasive species.

The Secretariat also extends gratitude to FAO through Dr Gillian Allard for the invaluable technical, financial and logistic support during the planning stages and throughout the workshop.

We extend our thanks to the Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi and the entire workshop organizing committee for a job well done.

TABLE 1: SPECIES THAT HAVE BEEN RECORDED AS MAJOR INVASIVES IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP

Pest	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Malawi	Tanzania	S.Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Uganda
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>			X	X	X	X			
<i>Acanthus</i> spp.					X				X
<i>Apatespp</i>		X		X					
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>		X							X
<i>Cedrella mexicana</i>					X				
<i>Chromoleaneae</i> spp		X				X			
<i>Cinara cupressivora</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Eucalyptus</i> psyllid	X		X		X	X			
<i>Fusarium circinatum</i>						X			
<i>Gonipterus scutellatus</i>			X			X	X	X	X
<i>Lantana camara</i>			X	X	X	X			X
Flamboyant Leaf hopper				X					
<i>Leucaena</i> psyllid	X		X	X	X				X
<i>Maesopsis eminii</i>					X				

Pest	Ethiopia	Ghana	Kenya	Malawi	Tanzania	S.Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe	Uganda
<i>Pineus boernerii</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Pissodes nemorensis</i>						X			
<i>Prosopsis</i>	X			X		X			
<i>Senna spectabilis</i>									X
<i>Sirex nocilio</i>						X			
<i>Phorocantha spp</i>			X		X	X	X	X	
<i>Cinara pinivora</i>	X		X	X	X				
<i>Rubus ellepticus</i>				X					
<i>Pinus patula</i>				X		X			
<i>Leptocybe invasa</i>	X		X		X				X